

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING ON THE COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

(Hobart, Australia, 24 October to 4 November 2005)

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Introduction

1. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is an intergovernmental organisation established by an international convention. The Commission is assisted by the Scientific Committee, which is responsible for developing measures necessary for the conservation of the marine life of the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. In turn, the Scientific Committee is assisted by various working groups, sub-groups and workshops that meet intersessionally. Controlled harvesting is permitted under the convention, provided it is carried out in a rational manner while taking into account the potential effects on the marine ecosystem. Targets for fishery are mainly krill, toothfish, and icefish, and on a smaller scale, squid and crabs. For the purpose of managing target species, as well as dependent and related species, the Commission meets annually and decides upon Conservation measures and other recommendations. SCAR is an Observer to the meetings of the Commission.

2. The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Commission was held at the new CCAMLR headquarters in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 24 October to 4 November 2005. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Seo-hang Lee (Republic of Korea). After the opening of the meeting, the Commission typically adjourned for the first week to allow the Scientific Committee to first conduct its activities and report back to the Commission. The Scientific Committee met between 24 and 28 October and was Chaired by Dr Edith Fanta (Brazil). The meeting of the Commission resumed on 31 October.

3. The Commission was attended by 23 of the 24 members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Community, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay. Poland was not represented. Observers also attended from a number of acceding nations, non-contracting parties, and international organisations such as SCAR. Details about the Commission, its membership, committees, and working groups can be found at the www.ccamlr.org website.

4. A report on SCAR activities of relevance to CCAMLR was submitted in advance and was registered as Commission background document CCAMLR-XXIV/BG/36. [see CCAMLR, under 'Partnerships and Links' on the following web page: <http://www.scar.org/researchgroups/lifescience/>] I gave a detailed report on SCAR activities to the Scientific Committee (SC) as part of a standing item on the SC Agenda - "Cooperation with other organisations, (i) Cooperation with the Antarctic Treaty System." I reinforced key issues in a second presentation to the full Commission, again as a standing Commission Agenda Item - "Cooperation with other elements of the Antarctic Treaty System, (ii) Cooperation with SCAR".

5. This present report deals with CCAMLR activities of relevance to SCAR, as well as with comments, discussion and feedback on the SCAR report to CCAMLR, mentioned in (4) above, which should also be read in conjunction with this report.

9th SCAR Biology Symposium (July 2005) and 2nd SCAR Open Science Conference (July 2006)

6. There was a lot of positive comment about the 9th SCAR Biology Symposium held in Curitiba, Brazil, in July 2005, especially in relation to the large number of students

participating in the conference, and to the participation of three scientists from the CCAMLR community, Dr So Kawaguchi (Australia), Dr Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany), Dr Keith Reid (UK), who provided keynote lectures promoting the role and activities of CCAMLR. These lectures underlined the close relationship between CCAMLR and SCAR. Dr H. Kawall (Brazil) noted that the students had received a lot of inspiration and knowledge regarding Antarctic biological science.

7. Similarly, CCAMLR and its members are keen to attend the 2nd SCAR Open Science Conference, in Hobart, Australia, in July 2006. Consequently, efforts were made by Dr Keith Reid (UK), new convenor of the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM), to push back the start of the Namibia July 2006 WG-EMM, to avoid a clash in timing with the SCAR Open Science Conference and XXIX SCAR Meeting. This will allow WG-EMM members to attend SCAR in Hobart before continuing to Namibia. Posters advertising the 2nd SCAR Open Science Conference were displayed during the two weeks of the Commission, thanks to the courtesy of the CCAMLR Secretariat.

EBA/CAML and IPY

8. The new Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) programme taking place under SCAR's Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic (EBA) scientific research programme during the International Polar Year is probably SCAR's strongest focus for immediate and extensive collaboration with CCAMLR. CCAMLR is developing its own IPY project, the CCAMLR-2008-IPY Survey, which was originally scheduled to be a synoptic survey of Antarctic krill *Euphausia superba*, pelagic fish and plankton biomass and biodiversity in Statistical Area 48 in the South Atlantic (Expression of Intent 148). The survey would be similar to the 2000 synoptic survey. The project had been established as the 'lead project' under the IPY topic "Natural Resources, Antarctic". CCAMLR has also been invited to establish an umbrella project for other projects under 'Natural Resources, Antarctic'. This will provide a wider circum-Antarctic perspective than the original CCAMLR-IPY proposal based in the South Atlantic.

9. Dr Volker Siegel (EC and Germany) is convenor of the steering committee for the CCAMLR-2008-IPY Survey. The Convenor of CAML, Prof. Michael Stoddart, had asked me to take on the responsibility of co-ordinator of the plankton/pelagic/midwater component of CAML. The Commission meeting provided an excellent opportunity for us to start detailed discussions to develop common sampling protocols for Antarctic krill and other pelagic species that will meet the objectives of both CCAMLR and CAML/EBA. Standard CCAMLR sampling protocols for krill can be employed during CAML in addition to other methods to find new species. Krill samples can thus be supplied to the CCAMLR-2008 Survey from the CAML collections, further extending its circum-Antarctic coverage for understanding krill demographics, whereas the planned intensive sample by CCAMLR can provide CAML with additional specimens and information. Dr Siegel and I agreed to maintain close contact as the CAML and CCAMLR IPY projects are developed.

10. The Commission noted the development of both the Marine Biological Information Network (SCARMarBIN) and the Southern Ocean Continuous Plankton Recorder (SO-CPR) survey database under EBA as services to the Antarctic community, and recognised that they can assist in addressing the objectives of CCAMLR's Ecosystem Monitoring Programme (CEMP) with useful references on general ecosystem activity.

11. The Chair of the Scientific Committee reinforced the idea that programmes such as EBA and CAML should interact with the working groups of the Scientific Committee.

Report on Seal and Bird Trends

12. CCAMLR has routinely asked SCAR for information on the status and trends of marine mammal and bird populations, at approximately five-yearly intervals. The next report was due in 2005. However, CCAMLR will not be formally requesting any further data on seals

and bird data, status and trends, until such time as CCAMLR holds a workshop to discuss what it actually needs in the way of seals and birds data for the ecosystem monitoring and management program. One of the aims of the workshop would be to provide a much clearer definition of data requirements for CCAMLR's work, with respect to estimates of abundance, and associated uncertainty, of land-based predators. CCAMLR appreciates the assistance given by SCAR, but queried the value of the status and trend summary information provided by SCAR in the past. Some of the summary information could not be used in its current form to determine the uncertainty of abundance estimates as required by CCAMLR. CCAMLR recognised that in the past it had not provided any specific guidance to SCAR on the appropriate format for the data that would be most useful for CCAMLR's work.

13. The Chair of the Scientific Committee will formally write to SCAR advising of the intention to hold a workshop in the near future, and to extend an invitation for SCAR representatives to attend that workshop. The workshop will assess the utility of existing data for estimating predator abundance and its uncertainty, develop estimation procedures, and identify any areas where data are absent or inadequate as priorities for future surveys.

14. My recommendation is that the SCAR representatives attending the workshop should have extensive experience in the analyses, format and content of the respective databases so they can best advise the workshop on what the SCAR seal and bird databases can deliver.

15. The Commission recognised that there could be a potential delay with the next review of the status and trends of predator populations caused by the postponement in requesting new data from SCAR. However, the Scientific Committee noted that information on status and trends of some species is available from other specialist groups such as the Status and Trends group of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). There is some circular reasoning involved here, in that SCAR is also an Observer to, and contributes information to, ACAP and its working groups.

16. CCAMLR was advised that SCAR is still able to provide advice on seals and birds, as well as other data such as oceanography, sea-ice and CPR, whenever required, and in the meantime, the latest report from the last SCAR Expert Group on Seals meeting in Curitiba, Brazil 2005, could be found at the EGS website. CCAMLR was reminded also about the Status of Stocks link at that site.

De-listing of Fur Seals

17. The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr Fanta, attended the VIIIth CEP meeting as the observer for CCAMLR. She noted, in her report to CCAMLR, the ATCM Working Paper from SCAR on de-listing the sub-Antarctic and Antarctic fur seals, and commented that some CEP members believed that the proposal needed further consideration. The SCAR Expert Group on Seals noted in their Curitiba July 2005 report that the Working Paper on delisting Fur Seals also required additional information from the US. CCAMLR raised the question of when the proposal would be submitted again, and was advised that a revised proposal would be ready for the 2006 ATCM and CEP meetings.

18. CCAMLR's Scientific Committee agreed that it was important that CEP receives input from CCAMLR on the delisting proposal. The Chair of CEP, Dr Tony Press (Australia) was requested to forward the revised SCAR proposal to the CCAMLR Secretariat, when it became available, together with an indication of the deadline for CCAMLR input.

19. The Secretariat was requested to coordinate a review by appropriate CCAMLR experts of SCAR's delisting proposals, taking account of any comments from Members, and to forward the results of the review for approval by WG-EMM or the Scientific Committee. The final comments and recommendations of the Scientific Committee would then be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Chair of CEP.

20. It seems more appropriate and efficient that SCAR should submit a copy of the revised de-listing proposal directly to the CCAMLR Secretariat at the same time as submitting to ATCM/CEP, requesting comments from CCAMLR's experts.

Acoustics and Marine Mammals

21. Details on the acoustics workshop to be held in Cadiz January 2006 were presented to CCAMLR, and CCAMLR was encouraged to register for the meeting. The workshop was subsequently advertised within the CCAMLR website with a link to the workshop page on the SCAR web site.

Marine Protected Areas

22. CCAMLR conducted a workshop on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in Silver Springs, Maryland, USA, from 29 August to 1 September, convened by Dr P Penhale (USA). At that workshop, Prof. J. Croxall (UK) presented a report on the SCAR Biology Symposium MPA Workshop at Curitiba, Brazil July 2005, and highlighted the potential for SCAR to contribute toward the collation of scientific data for the development of the MPAs. I also highlighted in my presentation to CCAMLR, SCAR's willingness to provide any advice and data to CCAMLR to assist in the future development of MPAs.

23. The CCAMLR MPA workshop recognised the need to develop a strategic approach in the design and implementation of MPAs and that there was also a need for strong collaboration at technical and policy levels with other key elements of the Treaty System, CEP, ATCM and SCAR, in order to further develop the MPA concept in the Southern Ocean.

Collaboration with CCAMLR

24. There is clearly a number of opportunities for closer collaboration with CCAMLR in relation to mutual exchange and access to data, exchange of information and expertise, participation in CCAMLR's working groups and workshops, and, especially, collaboration in research projects such as the IPY CAML and CCAMLR surveys. CCAMLR is eager to develop further collaboration with other organisations, especially with other key elements of the Antarctic Treaty system, notably CEP, ACAP and SCAR, in order to broaden its access to available experts. CEP noted that its activities overlap those of CCAMLR, and the same is likely for ACAP. However, SCAR as a non-governmental organisation remains in a unique position in relation to providing independent scientific advice and expertise.

25. CCAMLR's Scientific Committee recognised the significant contributions that Observers have made to its work, and considered ways to enhance expert contributions at future meetings of working groups. It was agreed that invitations to Observers attending SC-CAMLR meetings could be extended, according to the Rules of Procedure, to intersessional meetings of its working groups, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) all Observers participate at meetings in accordance with the Scientific Committee's rules of procedures;
- (ii) Observers with expert contributions submit meeting documents in accordance with the guidelines for the submission of meeting documents at working groups;
- (iii) the meeting convener and the Chair of the Scientific Committee would review each meeting document submitted by Observers and determine the scientific merit of the contribution and its relevance to the objectives of the meeting;
- (iv) subject to approval by the meeting convener and the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Observers who provided a significant scientific contribution (by way of a meeting document) would be invited to participate in the intersessional meeting.

26. As noted previously (paragraph 13), SCAR will also be invited to participate in specific workshops. We should take all opportunity to participate in the working group meetings, and occasional workshops as well as continuing to attend the Commission as Observers.

Similarly, SCAR should take the opportunity to seek any expertise available from CCAMLR that is not already available to SCAR, and invite appropriate CCAMLR experts to any relevant SCAR meeting.

Action List, CCAMLR Meeting, Hobart, Tasmania, 24 Oct – 4 Nov 2005

Agenda Item	Action No.	Action	Person Responsible	Target date	Progress
9	1	Work together to coordinate linkages between CAML and CCAMLR IPY projects	G. Hosie (SCAR) & V.Siegel (CCAMLR)	Report at XXIX SCAR and 25 CCAMLR	
11	2	Arrange for closer interactions between SCAR groups (such as EBA, CAML) and CCAMLR Working Groups	G.Hosie (SCAR) and E.Fanta (CCAMLR)	ditto	
12	3	SCAR experts to participate in CCAMLR workshop on the specific needs for birds and seals data. E. Fanta to invite SCAR to attend.	ditto	ditto	
20	4	SCAR to submit a copy of its revision to the ATCM Working Paper on delisting of Fur Seals, for review by CCAMLR experts	G.Hosie and D. Walton (SCAR)	Prior to ATCM	
23	5	SCAR to continue to work with CCAMLR as appropriate on the requirements for establishing Marine Protected Areas.	SC-ATS and CCAMLR Secretariat	Report at XXIX SCAR and 25 CCAMLR	
26 (i)	6	SCAR to obtain the programme of CCAMLR working groups to ascertain where value might be added through participation as an Observer	G.Hosie, SC-ATS and SSG-LS	Report at XXIX SCAR and 25 CCAMLR	
26 (ii)	7	SCAR to make its programme of working group meetings available to CCAMLR and to seek CCAMLR participation as appropriate	G.Hosie, SC-ATS and SSG-LS	Report at XXIX SCAR and 25 CCAMLR	